REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 2 are corrected by the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections. Claims 1-16 are amended. The specification is amended via the attached Substitute Specification. The Abstract is amended by the attached Substitute Abstract.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of the Abstract, Substitute Specification (37 C.F.R. §1.125(b)(2)) and each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:
- Substitute Abstract
- Appendix
- Substitute Specification
- Marked-up copy of original specification
- Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections

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APPENDIX

Changes to Abstract:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended Abstract.

~~An objective of~~ The~~the~~ present invention ~~is to~~ provide~~s~~ a data output controller ideally suited for easily obtaining detailed information available on a network.

~~_____~~A data output control terminal ~~300~~ is communicably connected to a portable terminal ~~100~~ possessed by a user, printing devices ~~$PR_1$ through $PR_n$~~ distributed and installed at various locations, and WWW servers ~~$DS_1$ through $DS_m$~~ via the Internet ~~400~~, acquires data regarding a data print request from the portable terminal ~~100~~ from the WWW servers ~~DS~~, selects a printing device ~~PR~~, which is considered to be optimum for the user of the portable terminal ~~100~~ to receive provided output data, from among a plurality of printing devices ~~PR~~, and outputs the acquired data to the selected printing device ~~PR~~. Regarding the selection of a printing device ~~PR~~, data on a printing device position is retrieved from the storage device ~~62~~ on the basis of, for example, data on a desired providing area indicating a desired providing area where output data is desired to be provided, and a printing device ~~PR~~ located in an area specified by the data on a desired providing area is selected.

Changes to Specification:

A Substitute Specification is attached in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.125(b)(2).

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

~~_____~~1. ~~____~~(Amended) A data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that~~,~~ issues a data print request, ~~and features portability,~~ and a plurality of output terminals that is distributed and installed at various locations to print data, receives a data print request from the portable terminal, and

outputs data regarding the data print request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

a storage devicemeans thatfor storesstoring output terminal information regarding the output terminals for each of the output terminals;,

a selecting devicemeans thatfor selectsselecting one of the plurality of output terminals;, and

an output devicemeans thatfor outputsting the data regarding the data print request to the output terminal selected by the selecting devicemeans,

wherein the data print request includinges search data necessary for the selecting devicemeans to select the output terminal, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal information from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the search data contained in the data print request so as to select an output terminal considered to be the best suited for the user of the portable terminal to receive provided output data.

2. (Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 1, wherein

the output terminal information includingincludes data on an output terminal position tofor determineing the location where the output terminal is installed, and

the search data may includinge data on a portable terminal position tofor determineing the position of the portable terminal, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal position data from the storage devicemeans on the basis of data on a portable terminal position contained in the search data, to thereby selecting an output terminal considered to be the closest distance-wise or time-wise, taking the position of the portable terminal as athe reference.

3. (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 1, wherein

the output terminal information includinges data on an output terminal position tofor determineing a location where the output terminal is installed, and

the search data may includinge data on a desired providing area that indicates a desired providing area, which is an approximate place where output data is desired to be provided, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges data on an output terminal position from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the data on a desired providing area included in the search data to thereby to select an output terminal located in an area specified by the data on a desired providing area.

4. (Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 3, wherein

the selecting devicemeans does not performing search based on the data on a portable terminal position if the position specified by the data on a portable terminal position is not included in the area specified by the data on a desired providing area included in the search data.

5. (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 1, wherein

the output terminal information includinges printing format data indicating a data format that can be printed by the output terminal among data formats of data regarding the data print request, and

the search data may includinge the printing format data, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges printing format data from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the printing format data included in the search data, and selectings an output terminal associated with the printing format data.

6. (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 1, wherein

the output terminal information includinges printing specification data indicating the printing specification of the output terminal, and

the search data ~~may~~ includinge the printing specification data, and

-the selecting devicemeans retrievinges printing specification data from the storage devicemeans on the basis of printing specification data included in the search data, and selectings an output terminal associated with the printing specification data.

7. (Twice Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

the output terminal information includinges output terminal identifying data that~~for~~ identifies~~ying~~ the output terminals, ~~and~~

the search data ~~may~~ includinge the output terminal identifying data, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal identifying data from the storage devicemeans solely on the basis of output terminal identifying data included in the search data, and selectings an output terminal that coincides with the output terminal identifying data.

8. (Twice Amended) ~~A~~ The data output controller according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

the output devicemeans outputtings output terminal information corresponding to an output terminal selected by the selecting devicemeans to the portable terminal.

9. (Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that~~,~~ issues a data output request, ~~and features portability,~~ and a plurality of output terminals that are distributed and installed at various locations to output data, receives a data output request from the portable terminal, and outputs data regarding the data output request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

a storage devicemeans thatfor storesing output terminal information regarding the output terminals for each of the output terminals;,

a selecting devicemeans thatfor selectsing one of the plurality of output terminals;, and

an output device thatmeans for outputsting the data regarding the data output request to an output terminal selected by the selecting devicemeans,

wherein the data output request includinges search data necessary for the selecting devicemeans to select the output terminal, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal information from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the search data contained in the data output request so as to select an output terminal considered to be the best suited for the user of the portable terminal to receive provided output data.

10. (Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9, wherein

the output terminal information includingincludes data on an output terminal position to determinefor determining the location where the output terminal is installed, and

the search data includingmay include data on a portable terminal position to determinefor determining the position of the portable terminal, and

the selecting device retrievingmeans retrieves data on an output terminal position from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the data on a portable terminal position contained in the search data, to thereby selecting an output terminal considered to be the closest distance-wise or time-wise, taking the position of the portable terminal as athe reference.

11. (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9, wherein

the output terminal information includinges data on an output terminal position for determining a location where the output terminal is installed, and

the search data may includeing desired providing area data that indicates a desired providing area, which is an approximate place where output data is desired to be provided, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges data on an output terminal position from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the data on a desired providing area included in the search data to thereby to select an output terminal located in an area specified by the data on a desired providing area.

12. (Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 11, wherein

the selecting devicemeans does not performing a search based on data on a portable terminal position if the position specified by the data on a portable terminal position is not included in the area specified by data on a desired providing area included in the search data.

13. (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9, wherein

the output terminal information includinges output format data indicating a data format that can be output by the output terminal among data formats of data regarding the data output request, and

the search data may includeing the output format data, and

-the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output format data from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the output format data included in the search data, and selectings an output terminal associated with the output format data.

14. (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9, wherein

the output terminal information includinges output specification data indicating the output specification of the output terminal, ~~and~~

the search data ~~may~~ includeing the output specification data, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output specification data from the storage devicemeans on the basis of output specification data included in the search data, and selectings an output terminal associated with the output specification data.

15. (Twice Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~

the output terminal information includinges output terminal identifying data that~~for~~ identifiesying the output terminals, ~~and~~

the search data ~~may~~ includeing the output terminal identifying data, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal identifying data from the storage devicemeans solely on the basis of output terminal identifying data included in the search data, and selectings an output terminal that coincides with the output terminal identifying data.

16. (Twice Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~

the output devicemeans outputtings output terminal information corresponding to an output terminal selected by the selecting devicemeans to the portable terminal.